Conversion of rail lines in Tamil Nadu

3451. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu has the highest percentage of metre gauge rail lines;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for conversion of metre gauge rail lines into broad gauge; and

(c) whether Government would consider to use the existing metre gauge rail lines at places where there are no double track broad gauge rail line, instead of auctioning it for scrap deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No,Sir.

(b) Although Tamil Nadu is not having the highest percentage of metre gauge lines, under the unigauge policy adopted since 1992 for the Indian Railways, gauge conversion of selected metre gauge / narrow gauge lines in Tamil Nadu and other States is being taken up considering operational requirements and other priorities.

(c) Released metre gauge rails are mostly not fit for reuse on broad gauge. Whatever fit rails are available, they are used for renewal of metre gauge sections.

Remodelling of Tamil Nadu railway stations

3452. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects for remodelling of Railway stations are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the target set for such projects in Tamil Nadu in particular, for the year 2002?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.